

From: Dale Fenimore
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 11:13am
Subject: Some Settlement ...

US DOJ,

You caved-in to a monopolist and, as a result, are rewarding that monopolist for abusing its monopoly power ... something it continues (and now will continue) to do.

Your "penalties" are weaker than what was rejected last year as unacceptable ... while you "pressed" ahead with your case against Microsoft. How, in good conscience, can you put the spin on this that it's the right thing to do and is good for consumers? Hogwash. Now, with the terrorist activity that has recently occurred, you decide that Microsoft is below your bar for attention ... and you're just trying to get rid of it now. This makes it expedient for you.

You've done the public ... and industry ... a tremendous disservice by the "settlement" you've reached. The ONLY winner here is Microsoft ... the public and industry loses ... and your credibility concerning the ability to handle monopolists (esp when that monopolist has as much money and as much bought influence as Microsoft has) is severely strained.

MS will continue to grow ... continue to use its market power to plow under competitors ... and reduce consumer choice. And you've helped to keep them there, despite the opportunity to help. You've gone pennywise and pounds foolish here ... your big (long term) picture doesn't really include the consumer. You've let politics interfere with a judicial process and, as a result, let all consumers and competitors (present and future/potential) down. You may have slowed Microsoft down just a tad ... but you're FAR from accomplishing what you, and the other States, started out to do.

Thanx for nothing. While it would have cost US, the people, more money in the short run to pursue this case properly, it would have saved everyone significant bucks in the long run, enabled decent competition to have proceeded, and improved the economy (by providing a level playing field for competition). You've enabled the monopolist and its monopolistic behavior. Time will tell ... but now, you've pretty much lost your opportunity.

Your present path makes me very angry and very disappointed in you. You're s'posed to protect the public from abuse of monopoly power. Microsoft has demonstrated time and again that it can't be trusted to NOT abuse it's monopoly position... but then, the DOJ has apparently conveniently developed amnesia relative to what it doesn't want to see...

DLF